



# Technical Mapping Advisory Council

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## Minutes Teleconference Meeting April 8, 1999

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### Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at two o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time. Attending for all or part of the meeting were:

#### Members:

Mark Riebau, ASCE, Chairman  
Kari Craun, USGS  
Kevin Hickey, Fannie Mae  
Brian Hyde, ASFPM  
Wendy Lathrop, ACSM  
Al LeQuang, Freddie Mac  
Mike Moye, NationsBank

#### Others:

Sally Magee, FEMA  
Matt Miller, FEMA  
Jeff Sparrow, Dewberry & Davis  
David Ward, Michael Baker Corp.  
Maureen Woosnam, FISCAA  
Melba Gandy, contractor

Members Peggy Bowker, Michael Buckley, Charles Challstrom, and Donald Hull were unable to participate.

At the Call to Order, the Chairman declared the absence of a quorum, and conducted an informal session pending the arrival of a seventh member. During this brief session, the Chairman reported that the tenure of the Council expires at the end of November 2000, and that he intends to request an extension through the end of January 2001, to complete the final report of the Council to Director Witt.

Wendy Lathrop questioned when the Council would receive the rate report. Mark Riebau clarified that this document reports, by zones, where damages from floods have been incurred and where insurance claims have been made. Matt Miller responded that it should be distributed at the meeting in Portland, or earlier.

Upon the arrival of a seventh Council member, the presence of a quorum was announced. The Chairman called the formal meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. on April 8, 1999, and led the Council in discussing the following items.

### **Minutes, March 1-2, 1999**

The draft Minutes of the March 1-2, 1999, meeting were discussed and consensus was reached on several revisions. At the conclusion of discussion, Wendy Lathrop moved to approve the Minutes as revised. Brian Hyde seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Revisions made at this meeting will be reflected in the final, signed minutes to be distributed before the meeting in Portland.

### **Agenda for Portland Meeting, May 27-28, 1999**

At the call of the Chairman for discussion of agenda items, Brian Hyde suggested six issues:

- (1) Unnumbered A-Zones,
- (2) Map Data Quality,
- (3) Cooperation, e.g. through activities such as Cooperating Technical Communities,
- (4) FEMA State and local government partnerships,
- (5) Report from Mike Buckley on the \$15 mortgage surcharge to support the MMP, and a report from FEMA about plans for or steps toward implementing it; and
- (6) Unique flood hazards (e.g., alluvial fans, erosion, ice jams).

Al LeQuang suggested the addition of discussion to (1) formalize the definition of roles of "technical advisors" to clarify their participation, and (2) ground rules for inviting guests to participate in Council meetings. Brian Hyde noted that the latter discussion should take place early in the meeting before the guests arrive from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

Mark Riebau explained that the Council has purposefully tried to hold meetings in conjunction with organizations and associations that Council members represent and/or agencies and organizations having an interest in matters within the Council's purview because meetings are open to the public in accordance with law and because public participation is welcomed. He recognized, however, that this issue arose when a group stated its intention to discuss one subject but, when at the meeting, revealed a different purpose. Wendy Lathrop added that the discussion might have been more helpful for all if the group had been forthright in advance about the issues its representatives really wanted to discuss.

Al LeQuang noted that mortgage industry representatives do not condone the “bait and switch” technique used by the guests, but could understand why they brought to the Council their concern about the \$15 mortgage surcharge to support the Map Modernization Program (MMP). He reported that members of the press had called FEMA to discuss the subject, and had been told by a FEMA public affairs representative that Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were represented on the Council. Media representatives then called Freddie Mac, erroneously believing that it supported the surcharge. Apparently, the Council was misrepresented as being a proponent of the surcharge because other Freddie Mac constituencies also reported the same belief. To avoid similar future situations, Mr. LeQuang strongly supported formalizing the participation of and relationships to the Council of future guests, and the establishment of rules applicable to their participation and that of the technical advisors in Council meetings.

Kevin Hickey reported that Fannie Mae also was contacted by members of the press about the same time that Freddie Mac was contacted.

Wendy Lathrop supported the development of guidelines on the basis that the Council’s time was taken up by an uninformed group of guests whose questions could easily have been addressed had the Council seen an outline of their concerns or a list of questions in advance.

The Chairman stated that concern about these matters would be incorporated into the Portland agenda in two items:

- (1) The role(s) of technical advisors; and
- (2) Policy(ies) regarding invited guests’ appearances at and participation in meetings.

Brian Hyde suggested that some basic written guidelines, perhaps one page or less of bullets, could be presented for discussion and quick action.

Mark Riebau asked whether Council members would like to break on Thursday during the Portland meeting for the address by Michael Armstrong, FEMA Associate Director for Mitigation. No objections were expressed.

Brian Hyde asked whether it would be desirable for him to ask the Executive Director (Larry Larson) or Chair (Lisa Holland) of ASFPM to make arrangements for introducing the Council members to attendees of the ASFPM Conference. The Council expressed no opposition to the suggestion. The Chairman asked that it be done, and that the ASFPM Chair and Executive Director be invited to attend the Council meeting.

The Chairman asked when the ASFPM Flood Map Committee would be ready to meet with the Council to discuss the first five items proposed for the agenda. Brian Hyde reported that he would call the Committee members to obtain this information,

would try to set it up for Thursday, and that he had asked them to choose one representative to work with the Council. The remaining nine will be available as their schedules permit.

After a short discussion, the Chairman noted that the meeting might need to conclude about noon on Friday, May 28.

Brian Hyde reported that a Mapping Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, May 26, at 7:00 a.m. The group will discuss mapping issues, and Mr. Hyde will serve as moderator. Council members are invited to attend. Members not registered for the ASFPM Conference will be charged a fee of \$20, and should let Mr. Hyde know via e-mail if they plan to attend.

The Flood Map Committee meeting is on Monday, May 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Council members, including those not registered for the ASFPM Conference, also may attend this activity.

During discussion of the agenda items for the Council's Portland meeting, Kari Craun asked what would be covered in the discussion of map data quality – whether it would be a report from FEMA. Mark Riebau noted that this subject evolved from a discussion of priorities for 1999 recommendations, but no one had been asked to address it. Brian Hyde added that he had written to the ten people on the ASFPM Flood Map Committee and referenced, among other items, issue 3.1.1, "Currency, Accuracy, and Reliability of Map Data," on p. 18 of the 1998 Annual Report. He added that the Council could define what it means by "map data quality," and obtain input from those present at the meeting and other sources.

Kari Craun suggested that more progress might be made if the Council had a document to which to react. She reported that the new "Minimum Standards for Base Maps" had been drafted. If it could be distributed to the Council prior to the Portland meeting, it would generate discussion. Brian Hyde suggested that FEMA staff also could discuss specific proposals in the various components of the MMP that address this general area, and the Council could react to their presentations.

Matt Miller advised that distribution of the draft document is "imminent," and that FEMA would send the draft to the Council concurrently with its distribution to FEMA regional offices and Counsel. He also advised that draft D-FIRM standards are to be available on May 1.

The Chairman directed that both the revised draft standards for base maps and D-FIRMs be incorporated into the Portland agenda. Matt Miller commented that FEMA would have substantive reports on the format of the maps and standards for making them by the time of the Portland meeting. These are timely subjects, he added, in terms of comments from the Council.

Brian Hyde reported that the first Cooperating Technical Community (CTC) agreement is to be signed in Denver the week before the Portland meeting.

Brian Hyde requested time on the agenda to share mapping information on Colorado communities, comparing existing draft FIRMs and newer draft maps. Matt Miller noted that draft maps of study contractors, when left with a community, should be accompanied by a protocol describing what is shown on the map.

Brian Hyde also offered to take responsibility for the discussion of unique flood hazards and materials for the Council's background on that issue. He requested that Mike Grimm be present for the discussion, and suggested that it would be helpful for the Council to hear from local people about unique hazards.

Mark Riebau pointed out that the Council will be discussing subjects discussed during two previous meetings; however, the group has not made enough progress to go forward with a recommendation on alluvial fans or eroding stream beds or other unique hazards. He expressed the belief that the importance of these issues suggests the need to continue to focus on them until recommendations are formulated.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Chairman outlined time frames for the Portland meeting:

<b>Thursday, May 27</b>	<b>Subject</b>
9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.	1. Action on Minutes of April 8, 1999, teleconference meeting 2. Unnumbered A-Zones 3. Map Data Quality: Revised "Minimum Standards for Base Maps" and Revised D-FIRM Standards
10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	4. Attend ASFPM Conference Closing Session to hear an address by Mike Armstrong.
12:00 noon	5. Working lunch; continue discussion of Map Data Quality
Afternoon	6. Cooperation (refer to issue 3.1.5, p.21, 1998 Annual Report) 7. FEMA/State/Local Partnerships (refer to issue 3.2.10, p. 32, 1998 Annual Report)
<b>Friday, May 28</b>	
	8. Unique Hazards (Brian Hyde will determine whether someone from the ASFPM Unique Hazards group can attend this portion. Mike Grimm may also report progress on his work regarding eroding streambeds.) 9. Guidelines for Invited Guests 10. Role(s) of Technical Advisors 11. New Business

## **New Business**

- Council members will send to Melba Gandy information about where they will be staying in Portland.
- Melba Gandy will advise the Council the name and location of the room where the meeting will be held in Portland, lunch arrangements, and other details.

## **Louisville Meeting, September 1999**

- Brian Hyde offered a reminder that planning needs to begin for logistics for the September meeting in Louisville.
- Suggestions were made to consider for the Louisville agenda: (1) general discussion of FEMA priorities, based on funding (the agency will know by September what it can and cannot do); (2) discussion of what local, state, and private entities can begin to do and self-fund pending implementation of MMP (the initiatives taken in Louisville may be exemplary); (3) update on the MMP; (4) report on Mike Grimm's work with eroding streambeds.

## **Other Comments**

- Wendy Lathrop reported an issue raised at the ASCM Spring conference in Portland that relates to the Council's ongoing future conditions discussions. Communities approve small projects here and there, which, taken individually, do not have a significant impact on flood hazards. Collectively, however, they may affect the area's susceptibility to floods and, therefore, the flood insurance rate map, which may not depict this type of collective hazard or change in the configuration of the floodplain. She suggested that the Council consider this issue and how to address it, perhaps by reviewing letters of amendment and letters of revision. Brian Hyde suggested that this issue is included in the issue of maps being up-to-date.
- Brian Hyde stated that he hopes to make the focus of the ASFPM Mapping Committee the work of and interaction with the Council. The Committee will meet on Monday, May 24.

## **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

Brian Hyde moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wendy Lathrop, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. (EST) on April 8, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

[original signed]

Mark A. Riebau  
Chairman